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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Malta, Mongolia, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines and Tunisia: draft resolution

Integration of older women in development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/76 of 8 December 1989, in which it was pointed out that age segregation, in addition to sex stereotyping, makes the social and economic problems of elderly women even more acute, and that they are often viewed only as beneficiaries and not as contributors to development,

Also recalling its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it was emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

Further recalling resolution 36/4 of 20 March 1992 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 1/ in which the Commission emphasized the need to adopt an approach for the advancement of women that takes into account all stages of life, so as to identify measures that respond to women's needs,

Calling attention to the urgent need to develop and improve the publication of statistics by sex and by age, and to identify and evaluate the different forms of activities of older women which are not normally recognized as having an economic value, in particular in the informal sectors,

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1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1992/24).

Taking note of the proceedings of the International Symposium on Population Structure and Development, held at Tokyo in September 1987, which called attention to the fact that the United Nations had estimated that there were 208 million women aged 60 and above in 1985, of which about half lived in the developed and half in the developing world, and that by the year 2025 this number had been projected to increase to 604 million elderly women for the world as a whole, of which nearly 70 per cent will be living in the developing countries,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the joint publication of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women and the Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat entitled The Situation of Elderly Women: Available Statistics and Indicators 2/ and encourages both organizations to continue their pioneering work in this field;

2. Requests the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to pay particular attention to discrimination on grounds of age when evaluating national reports on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; 3/

3. Invites the competent organs of the United Nations to adopt an approach that, in all their strategies and programmes for the advancement of women, takes into account all stages of life and envisages the advancement of young women, while bearing in mind the subsequent consequences of decisions taken on their account;

4. Also invites the international development agencies and organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the United Nations Development Programme, to take account of the potential of elderly women as a human resource for development and to include older women in their development strategies and programmes, and encourages Governments to ensure the inclusion of women, regardless of age, in development projects covered by national and multilateral financial institutions;

5. Further invites the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development be considered under the three main agenda items of the Summit: "Elimination of poverty", "Social integration" and "Employment";

6. Urges the Commission on the Status of Women, as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace to ensure that older women's concerns and contributions to development be recognized and incorporated into the strategies, programmes and policies of the Platform for Action which deal with equality, development and peace;

2/ INSTRAW/SER.B/44.

3/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".